Charlotte’s annual Yiasou Greek Festival was held from Thursday September 8 to Sunday September 11 at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church. The festival offered participants customary Greek food, entertainment, and a taste of ancient Greek history.

Simulating past years, the event had tours of the Byzantine cathedral every hour. The tours explained the history of the Church, its construction, and many religious icons displayed in the church.

Beneath the church were rooms filled with shops and exhibits about the history of the Orthodox Greek Church, including church icons and artifacts. The cultural exhibits displayed different warriors of Ancient Greece and famous battles fought by states from Greece.

The dean of the cathedral, Reverend Father Michael Varvarelis, was also giving lectures about the history of Mount Athos every day. Mount Athos is the center of the Eastern Christian Orthodox Monasticism.

“The Greek festival displayed to me the finer side of Greek culture,” said Charlotte Catholic Junior, Emerson Underwood, “it was like a time machine that let me experience ancient Greece first hand. In other words it was Greekin’ awesome.”

The festival was run solely by volunteers. Though some are not members of the church, the main labor force of the event was consisted of Holy Trinity members.

The youth members of the church also contribute to the festival by providing traditional Greek dancing as entertainment.

Gabby Stavropoulos, a Charlotte Catholic Junior, has been dancing for the Greek festival since she was in kindergarten.

“I love being a part of the Greek festival,” said Stavropoulos, “I’m the only student from catholic that works there, so it’s a good way to show off the Greek culture to Charlotte.”

The rest of Stavropoulos family also contributes to the festival by providing and cooking food for the event.

The festival presents various shopping opportunities for participants from an open-air market outside that sell jewelry, crafts and clothing. Beneath the church there are bigger stores that contain finer jewelry, more clothing items, paintings, and Greek texts written in English and Greek.

The festival also had activities promoted toward younger children including rides, wax hands, caricatures, and face painting. The children could also enjoy snow cones, popcorn and candy. All of this was located in the front lawn of the church.

All profits made from the Greek Festival went straight towards the funds for Holy Trinity Church.